

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 00511 270746Z
ACTION EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ROME
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USMISSION USBERLIN
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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT, CZ
SUBJECT : HUSAK'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY "VICTORIOUS FEBRUARY" SPEECH.

BEGIN SUMMARY: CZECHOSLOVAK CP CENTRAL COMMITTEE MET FEBRUARY
23 TO HEAR GENERAL SECRETARY GUSTAV HUSAK RECOUNT SUCCESSES
OF THIRTY YEARS SINCE 1948 COUP. IN PRESENCE OF SOVIET AMBASSADOR
AND STAFF, AMBASSADORS FROM COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, AND NATIONAL
FRONT ORGANIZATIONS, HUSAK HELD FORTH FOR OVER AN HOUR, WITH NO
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PAGE 02 PRAGUE 00511 270746Z

VISIBLE SIGN OF THE FATIGUE WE HAD NOTED DURING LATE 1977.
A FEW POINTS IN HIS SPEECH, PRINTED VERBATIM IN FEB 24 RUDE PRAVO,
ARE NOTE-WORTHY. END CUMMARY.

1. REFERENCE TO 1950 TRIALS. REVIEWING PARTY HISTORY, HUSAK
BRIEFLY MENTIONED "VIOLATION OF SOCIALIST LEGALITY" IN EARLY
1950'S, BUT EMPHASIZED THAT PROBLEM HAD BEEN DEALT WITH

"DECISIVELY."

2. 1968 REFORMS WEIGHED. HUSAK ACKNOWLEDGED THERE HAD BEEN A NEED IN THE SIXTIES TO "FORMULATE ANEW, LONG-TERM, REAL PROGRAM OF ALL-SIDED DEVELOPMENT," AND THAT MANY "HONORABLE" CITIZENS AND PARTY MEMBERS HAD GREETED THE JANUARY, 1968 CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM (AT WHICH DUBCEK RELIEVED NOVOTNY), WITH "HOPE." HUSAK FOUND NO FAULT WITH THE JANUARY PROGRAM, BUT SAYS THAT "THE LEADERSHIP OF THE PARTY AND STATE AT THAT TIME PROVED INCAPABLE OF FULFILLING THE

GOALS" OF JANUARY. HUSAK'S OFFICIAL EXPLANATION FOR THE DUBCEK'S LEADERSHIP'S FAILURE IS "AN INSUFFICIENCY OF CRITICISM AND SELF-CRITICISM WHICH LED TO SUBJECTIVE IMPROVISATIONS AND TO ATTEMPTS TO JUMP OVER DEVELOPMENTAL STAGES." COMMENT : HUSAK'S REFERENCE TO THE JANUARY 1968 PLENUM LARGELY ECHOED A COMMENT BY BILAK IN A SPEECH LATE LAST YEAR WHICH SOME OBSERVERS HERE INTERPRETED AS IMPLYING A WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT SOME REFORM WITHOUT, OF COURSE, THE "DISTORTIONS" WHICH DUBCEK ALLOWED. END COMMENT.

3. DIFFERENTIATION. SINCE HUSAK STATED THE PARTY'S INTENTION TO "DIFFERENTIATE" BETWEEN REPENTANT AND NON-REPENTANT 1968ERS AT THE FIFTEENTH PARTY CONGRESS IN APRIL, 1975, WE HAVE BEEN MONITORING OFFICIAL PRONOUNCEMENTS FOR INDICATIONS OF WHAT STEPS MIGHT BE TAKEN. IN THIS SPEECH HUSAK MADE IT SOUND AS IF ANY CONTEMPLATED "DIFFERENTIATION" HAS NOW BEEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 PRAGUE 00511 270746Z

COMPLETED "IN CAREFUL POLITICAL WORK WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY DIFFERENTIATED BETWEEN THOSE WHO WAVERED AND TEMPORARILY VACILLATED, AND THOSE WHO WERE ACTIVE REPRESENTATIVES AND ORGANIZERS OF RIGHTIST ANTI-SOCIALIST FORCES." THE GREAT MAJORITY OF THOSE WHO "SUCCUMBED TO DEMAGOGY" IN 1968, HUSAK CONTINUED, NOW SUPPORT THE CURRENT CPCZ LINE WITH THEIR "HONEST WORK."

4. COMMENT: SPEECH WAS A FAIRLY TYPICAL HUSAK EFFORT DELIVERED IN FIRM, CLEAR VOICE AND WITHOUT ANY OF THE ASIDES WHICH HUSAK IS ACCUSTOMED TO MAKE IN LESS FORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES. IT IS PERHAPS NOTEWORTHY THAT NO FOREIGN PARTY DIGNITARIES CAME TO PRAGUE FOR THIS 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION, BUT THAT MAY HAVE BEEN DUE TO A CONFLICT WITH THE DATES OF THE BREZHNEV-GLORIFYING CELEBRATION IN MOSCOW OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FORMATION OF THE SOVIET ARMY.

5. A SOCIAL NOTE WHICH AMUSED WESTERN DIPLOMATS WATCHING SPEECH ON TV (NO NONCOMMUNIST DIPLOMATS HAVE BEEN INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY OF THE ANNIVERSARY FUNCTIONS) OCCURRED WHEN HUSAK MADE OBLIGATORY REFERENCE TO KLEMENT GOTTWALD. AUDIENCE BROKE INTO APPLAUSE AND TV CAMERA PANNED ACROSS THE ROW OF COMMUNIST AMBASSADORS, ALL OF WHOM WERE LUSTILY CLAPPING EXCEPT YUGOSLAV

AMBASSADOR VENISNIK, WHO SAT QUIETLY WITH HANDS FOLDED IN
HIS LAP. CHINESE AMBASSADOR WAS NOT VISIBLE ON TV AND WE
ASSUME HE STAYED AWAY.
DECONTROL AFTER FOUR YEARS FROM ORIGINATING DATE".
FROWICK

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